

CLAIMS

1. A method of processing a data file representing a document, said data file including at least one link data item specifying a linked location within said document or another document, said method comprising the steps of:
- (i) accessing a target document within a hierarchy of documents linked by link data items;
- (ii) searching one or more linked documents higher in said hierarchy than said target document and linked to said target by a link data item to identify repeated components of said target document that are also present in said one or more linked documents higher in said hierarchy than said target document; and
- (iii) removing at least one of said repeated components from said target document.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said searching for repeated components comprising searching for one or more of:
- repeated link data items;
- repeated graphical data items; and
- repeated text data items.
3. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein said documents are internet web pages each having an associated universal resource identifier, said hierarchy of documents following a hierarchy defined by said universal resource identifiers.
4. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein said hierarchy of documents follows an order in which said documents are accessed by a user in a session with documents accessed earlier in said session being positioned higher in said hierarchy than documents accessed later in said session.
5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said hierarchy uses as its highest document one of:

a first document accessed in said session;

a first document accessed within a predetermined preceding period within said session; and

a first document accessed within a predetermined number of previously accessed documents within said session.

6. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of adding an up link data item to said target document, said up link data items specifying a linked location within a document one higher within said hierarchy.

7. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of adding a home link data item to said target document, said home link data items specifying a linked location within a document highest within said hierarchy.

8. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said link data items are hypertext links.

9. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said data file is retrieved from a source computer server via a computer network.

10. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said steps of accessing, searching and removing are performed by a proxy server disposed within said computer network between said source computer server and a client computer requesting said data file.

11. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said steps of accessing, searching and removing are performed by a client computer which requests said data file from said source computer server.

12. A method as claimed in any one of claims 10 and 11, wherein said client computer has a user display with different display capabilities than those of a display for which said document is intended or said document is display independent.

13. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said client computer is a wireless device.

14. Apparatus for processing a data file representing a document, said data file including at least one link data item specifying a linked location within said document or another document, said apparatus comprising processing logic for performing the

5 steps of:

- (i) accessing a target document within a hierarchy of documents linked by link data items;
- (ii) searching one or more linked documents higher in said hierarchy than said target document and linked to said target by a link data item to identify repeated components of said target document that are also present in said one or more linked documents higher in said hierarchy than said target document; and
- (iii) removing at least one of said repeated components from said target document.

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15. Apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said data file is retrieved from a source computer server via a computer network.

16. Apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said processing logic is part of a proxy server disposed within said computer network between said source computer server and a client computer requesting said data file.

17. Apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said processing logic is part of a client computer which requests said data file from said source computer server.

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18. A computer program storage medium storing a computer program for controlling a data processing apparatus to perform the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13.